

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Recommendation to the King County Executive and Council for Allocation of 2003/2004 Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) Levy Funds

Background on Conservation Futures Tax Levy:

Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) levy funds are collected from property taxes levied throughout King County and dedicated to the acquisition of open space in cities and rural areas. The Conservation Futures Citizens Committee (Committee) makes an annual recommendation of project funding allocations to King County based on its review of project applications and site visits. This recommendation covers a range of \$9,358,000 to \$10,458,500 from a total of \$11,302,500 in remaining 2003 and anticipated 2004 CFT collections net of debt service, though the total amount of funds available will be determined by King County later this year. King County allocated \$3.4 million in 2003 CFT projected collections to several projects in the 2003 annual budget ordinance, which the Committee has considered in balancing its overall recommendation.

Conservation Futures Citizens Committee Recommendation Process:

In the spring and early summer of 2003 the Conservation Futures Citizens Committee met six times and conducted seven field trips to develop this recommendation. The Committee reviewed the projects using King County's adopted conservation Futures criteria, which the Committee developed at the request of the King County Council in the fall of 2001. Applications and notice of the availability of these funds were mailed out to park and natural resource directors of King County and its cities by April 14, 2003. 33 applications were submitted requesting \$18 million. Proposed projects ranged from urban green spaces in Seattle and suburban cities to wildlife habitat areas and farmlands in unincorporated King County. A summary table of the Committee's recommendation is located at the end of this report.

Factors affecting this recommendation:

The Committee has tried to present a balanced recommendation that recognizes the importance of the various allowable uses of CFT funds and considers the likelihood of success of proposed projects. The Committee first looks at the quality of open space resources of projects and then considers the levels of risk of loss of those resources or other timely opportunities, such as available matching dollars, a landowner's offer to sell a property, or strong community partnerships. Some projects in this recommendation have regional importance, such as Kubota Gardens in Seattle, Tollgate Farm in North Bend and Clark Lake in Kent. Other projects make incremental but important contributions to greenways, salmon habitat protection efforts, or additions to existing parks. Examples include salmon habitat additions in the Cedar, Green and Snoqualmie River watersheds, farmland development rights purchases that strengthen King County's Agricultural Production Districts, and urban open spaces that contribute to more livable urban neighborhoods.

Many of the projects recommended are part of sustained, multiple-year efforts, some of which stretch back over ten years. For example, North Bend's Tollgate Farm project and the city of Kent's Clark Lake project were first proposed in the 1989 Open Space Bond program. Bellevue's Meydenbauer Bay Park project was first funded in the 1993 Conservation Futures Bond program. Other projects have been identified in adopted plans for up to 10 years. Examples are Issaquah's Precipice Properties proposal, identified in King County's adopted Cougar Mountain Regional Wildlife Park Plan in 1994. Several

salmon habitat projects were identified in King County's Waterways 2000 program in the mid-1990s. Urban projects have also been identified through adopted planning processes, including Seattle's neighborhood planning process and Pro-Parks 2000 levy, as well as comprehensive and parks plans in suburban cities. These projects enhance the livability of densely-developed urban neighborhoods while supporting their communities. By encouraging in-city growth, they also help relieve development pressure on green spaces in other communities.

Summary of major benefits of this recommendation:

Over 1,000 acres of salmon and wildlife habitat would be protected:

- On Issaquah Creek, three separate projects by King County and the City of Issaquah will permanently preserve over two miles of high quality riparian habitat.
- The headwaters Judd Creek on Vashon Island, one of Vashon's two major salmon-bearing streams.
- Stoessel Creek east of Duvall would have high quality habitat preserved along the creek corridor, adjacent to Markworth State Forest.
- At Taylor Creek, an important salmon-spawning tributary of the of the Cedar River, 16 acres will be acquired and subsequently restored, including moving the stream out of a roadside ditch.
- 41 acres that includes Dandy Lake in its entirety would be acquired near Flaming Geyser State Park. The property has one of the highest diversities of songbird species in King County.

Over 200 acres of development rights would be purchased to protect farms on city borders:

- A 120-acre farm north of Carnation will form a separator between the city and farmland to the north.
- Acquiring a 75-acre farm on Enumclaw's southern city limits would add needed habitat buffers to Boise Creek, a primary Chinook spawning tributary in the White River watershed.
- An historic 20-acre farm in the Green River Valley would be preserved. It is located on unincorporated King County's first road and is part of the Lower Green Agricultural Production District that provides an urban separator between the cities of Kent and Auburn.

Urban Green Spaces would be created and preserved

- Purchase of 2 waterfront parcels would complete the waterfront acquisition for Bellevue's Meydenbauer Bay Park, just two blocks from the city's commercial center and Downtown Park.
- Acquisition of a significant 5.6-acre woodland buffer to Seattle's Kubota Gardens would ensure the high quality experience of this internationally recognized historic landmark Japanese garden.
- Three neighborhood open space projects in West Seattle would be funded. These are on Longfellow and Puget Creeks, on Alaska Street in the California Avenue neighborhood and along Sylvan Way near newly renovated affordable housing at the High Point development.
- Forward-looking new urban-center green spaces in Seattle's growing Capitol Hill, Denny Triangle, University District, Greenwood and Fremont neighborhoods, necessary amenities for a livable city.
- Additions to Clark Lake in Kent, the Bellevue Greenway system and Lakota Park in Federal Way.

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u>	
		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>

SUBURBAN CITIES

<u>Auburn</u> – Western Street Habitat	\$165,350	\$165,000 - \$ 165,000 (2003)	
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Recommendation: This 2-parcel, 4 acre property is located on the west side of Western Street, adjacent to State Route 167. It is an addition to a much larger exiting city-owned open space to the North that is also located along the Interurban Regional Trail. This site provides visual relief along Route 167. The property is identified in Auburn's Park Recreation and Open Space Plan in the Mill Creek Corridor Target Area. One of the two parcels is proposed for a school bus parking circle that would, as proposed, dominate most of the parcel. Part of the property is located in the FEMA floodplain. The landowner is in litigation with the City over claims of reduction in the value of the property, due to flooding allegedly caused by off-site bridge construction by the city. The funds sought in this application will not be used to cover any portion of the value of the damage claim, should such an award be determined. The Committee recommends that this bus parking circle and lot should not exceed 15% of the surface area of the southerly parcel and should be reduced from incursion into the western half of that parcel, otherwise other more appropriate funds should be used to pay for the parcel. Auburn has not received Conservation Futures funds since 1993. In recognition of the need to equitably distribute Conservation Futures funds over time, the Committee recommends fully funding this project.

<u>Bellevue</u> – Greenway and Open Spaces System	\$3,800,000	\$500,000 - \$650,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This is a multiple-parcel project located in the Wilburton, Kelsey Creek and Richards Valley areas. The greenway system constitutes a major community separator for southern Bellevue, provides a scenic amenity along local arterial roads and will provides community trail access in the greenbelts. These parcels will provide significant additions to existing greenways. They also contain important songbird and urban wildlife habitat. The greenway system is identified in the city's Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Open Space Plan policies. The Committee recommends that the City should come back to King County for final approval for acquisition of specific parcels after it has gained agreements or strong indications of willingness from owners to sell.

<u>Bellevue</u> - Meydenbauer Bay Park	\$3,100,000	\$1,000,000 - \$1,000,000 (2003 & 2004, \$500,000 - \$500,000 in each year)	
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Recommendation: This project consists of two waterfront parcels totaling .23 acres with over 75 feet of waterfront, located on Lake Washington Boulevard in Bellevue. Bellevue has been piecing together Meydenbauer Bay Park since 1992 and acquisition of the two parcels in this project will complete the linkage of publicly-owned waterfront land for the park. When completed, the park will have ¼ mile of waterfront access to Lake Washington and will be linked to Bellevue's Downtown Park, three blocks away. The park contains an osprey nest with its own internet "osprey cam", which these parcels will buffer. The properties also contain direct access to and scenic views of Lake Washington, and will add much-needed public access to the lake. Meydenbauer Bay Park is identified in the city's Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Open Space Plan. The parcels have willing sellers with pending agreements, and the city is willing to provide the matching funds necessary to purchase the properties. There are houses on each parcel that will be removed upon acquisition by the city.

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	Amount Requested	Recommended Range	
		Low	High
<u>Federal Way – Lakota Wetlands</u>	\$ 194,000	\$194,000 - \$194,000 (2003)	

Recommendation: This project consists of a 12-acre addition to the existing Lakota Park, which mainly contains active recreation ball fields. The park is located in an area of the city with a park deficit. The adjacency of the wetland would allow the city to expand the park to include a setting for environmental education and passive recreation. The park is also close to a high school and junior high, allowing for additional educational opportunities. The city intends to recruit student volunteers to help steward the site, including invasive weed removal, water quality monitoring and trash cleanup. The central portion of the property is primarily wetland, some of which is open water. The wetland provides urban wildlife habitat refuge. The city has available matching funds for the full funding of this project. The city has received a comparatively low amount of Conservation Futures funds in recent years and funding of this proposal will provide a better balance of funds to the city.

<u>Issaquah – Issaquah Creek – Johnson Property</u>	\$ 500,000	\$250,000 - \$250,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: The project is 7.8-acre property located west of Front Street/Issaquah Hobart Road that contains approximately 1/3 mile of forested riparian habitat along Issaquah Creek. This property has high quality salmonid habitat, particularly for a site located within city limits. It provides a scenic amenity from along the Issaquah Hobart Road and it provides good quality urban wildlife habitat. The property links functionally to other salmonid habitat protected along Issaquah Creek between Lake Sammamish and the creek's headwaters on Taylor Mountain. It is an important component of that overall system. The long-term owner of the site passed away recently and the new owners are willing to discuss sale of the property. Issaquah Creek was identified in the Waterways 2000 program as one of King County's 17 most important salmonid habitat stream basins. Over the past several years, King County and the City of Issaquah have been jointly working on an Issaquah Creek/Lake Sammamish Watershed Program with many other public and private partners.

<u>Issaquah - Precipice Trail Connector Acquisition</u>	\$ 500,000	\$250,000 - \$250,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This multiple-parcel project of up to 153 acres links the northeast portion of Cougar Mountain to Issaquah's city limits west of Newport Way. The project provides a trail connection up to Cougar Mountain with a wooded-buffer to that connection, from the city and the Cedar to Sammamish Regional Trail. Permanent preservation of a trail link is identified as a high priority in King County's adopted Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Master Plan (September 1994) and Issaquah's adopted "Issaquah Area Wildlife and Recreation Trail Plan (November 1992). This project would provide added protection to a scenic portion of Cougar Mountain Regional Park that is most visible from I-90 and downtown Issaquah. It will also be an important addition to the community separator between Issaquah and Bellevue that is created by Cougar Mountain. This proposal encompasses 10 parcels that are closer to a threat of development than in previous years, due to adjacent development.

<u>Kent - Clark Lake Watershed Addition</u>	\$430,000	\$300,000 - \$300,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This project includes two inholding parcels totaling 7.75 acres at Clark Lake Park on SE 240th Street in Kent. Clark Lake was initiated by King County in the 1989 Open Space Bond Program and over the past dozen years King County the city have worked to acquire 12 parcels that now constitute the park. The City has a longer-term plan to acquire about one half dozen remaining inholding

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u> <u>Low High</u>
parcels to complete the original vision of the park and it likely intends to seek additional Conservation Futures Funds in the future. The City received \$1,000,000 in Conservation Futures grants in the past two years, however, the Committee feels that Clark Lake is a significant open space in urban southern King County and the city's strong effort to gain matching funds to acquire the remaining inholdings merits this grant. The house on the westernmost parcel identified in this proposal may be preserved by the city for environmental education purposes. If so, Conservation Futures funds will not be used fund to acquire the house. The funding level we have recommended reflects the estimated value of the property minus the value of the house. The city also intends a modest expansion of its small existing parking lot onto the western parcel, along SE 240 th Street, to accommodate the need for additional parking at the site, but within the impervious surface limits in King County's adopted Conservation Futures criteria.		

<u>North Bend – Tollgate Farm</u>	\$ 250,000	\$125,000 - \$125,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: Located on State Route 202 in North Bend, this project is comprised of up to 35 acres within the overall 410-acre Tollgate Farm. The farm was acquired jointly by King County and North Bend in 2001 for over \$8 million. The 35-acre portion of the farm was purchased with funds from a \$1 million city bond and North Bend, which has a small population and tax base, is seeking Conservation Futures funds to lessen the fiscal impact of the bond. It would further protect the site with more restrictive use provisions than are currently in place. Currently, the 35-acre site could be developed with more active uses that would impact the passive nature of the farm. Further protection of this parcel is needed as it is part of an important wildlife corridor in the upper Snoqualmie Valley that links the Rattlesnake Mountain area with the North and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River. Bear, elk and other large mammals use this corridor, despite its close proximity to the city. The site also has an impressive view of Mount Si and Rattlesnake Ridge from State Route 202 and it also helps form a significant urban separator between North Bend and Snoqualmie. All of these factors combine to make Tollgate Farm an open space of regional importance.

SEATTLE

<u>Seattle - Fremont Peak Park Addition</u>	\$185,000	\$185,000 - \$185,000 (2003)
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Recommendation: This site is a pedestrian-oriented park located between 1st Avenue NW and Palatine Avenue at NW 45th Street. The property is an urban refuge for people in a high-density portion of the Phinney neighborhood. It has outstanding views of the Lake Union Ship Canal, Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains and downtown Seattle. It is located adjacent to a pedestrian stairway on a public right-of-way in. This property will allow better street visibility and access, and will enlarge the park. The Fremont Peak project has received a total of \$500,000 in Conservation Futures allocation in 2001 and 2002 and this additional grant will help the city to complete the park. The city has raised significant matching funds for the overall project, including purchase of some of the property at below-fair market-value. The property is a high priority of the Fremont community in the city's COMPLAN 2000. The city has also identified Fremont as an area with unmet needs for open space and parks, and this proposal will address that need.

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u> <u>Low High</u>
<u>Seattle</u> - Greenwood Park Addition	\$100,000	\$100,000 - \$100,000 (2003)
<p><i>Recommendation:</i> This project consists of two inholdings within Greenwood Park, located on Fremont Avenue at North 88th Street. This is a new park that will be developed with funds obtained through the Seattle Pro-Parks Levy. The park will serve the Phinney-Greenwood Urban Village, which is deficient in open space according to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000. Each of the inholding properties contains a house that will be removed. The park is currently under construction and when it is completed it will provide a children's play space in conjunction with the Seattle Boy's and Girls Club, which is located across from the park. The nearby Denise Hunt Townhomes and Low Income Housing Institute have donated \$2,000 towards the project, as an indication of their support. City acquisition of the inholdings will provide for a more manageable open space and will allow the city to avoid conflicts with property owners who would be effectively surrounded by the park. The city has available matching funds from its voter-approved Pro Parks 2000 levy.</p>		
<u>Seattle</u> - Kubota Gardens Addition	\$200,000	\$200,000 - \$200,000 (2003)
<p><i>Recommendation:</i> Located off Renton Avenue South in the Rainier Beach Neighborhood, this project consists of two wooded inholding parcels totaling 5.6 acres that buffer Kubota Gardens. The gardens have been designated as a Seattle landmark, as they have particular historic and cultural significance to Seattle's Japanese-American Community, to our region as a whole, and internationally. As further evidence of the garden's importance, the International Japanese Garden Association's annual meeting will be held in Seattle in 2004. The two properties proposed for addition will provide significant additional buffers that are critical to the quality of the experience of the gardens. The additions will also provide additional urban wildlife habitat. The city plans a passive nature trail in the woods that buffer the gardens. The project will also help protect the headwaters of Mapes Creek, an urban stream that flows into Lake Washington. The Kubota Garden Foundation has helped train Seattle Parks Department gardeners and is a supporting partner in this project.</p>		
<u>Seattle</u> - Longfellow Creek and Puget Creek	\$280,000	\$280,000 - \$280,000 (2003)
<p><i>Recommendation:</i> This project consists of inholdings in ownership on two West Seattle creek systems; the Longfellow Creek portion consists of two parcels at the corner of 24th Avenue SW and SW Willow Street, and the Puget Creek Additions portion consists of two adjacent wooded parcels near SW Brandon Street and 21st Avenue SW. The Longfellow Creek portion contains two houses that will be removed, allowing for the riparian habitat in the corridor to be subsequently restored. This project will provide critical links in existing riparian systems and will enhance urban wildlife habitat. The city is working with school and citizen groups to restore both of these creek systems. The project was included in the Seattle 2000 Parks Levy.</p>		
<u>Seattle</u> - SW Alaska Street Park	\$170,000	\$170,000 - \$170,000 (2003)
<p><i>Recommendation:</i> This half-acre site is located on SW Alaska Street and 48th Avenue Southwest, just west of the West Seattle Junction Hub Urban Village. The site is located on a bus line and is a priority for acquisition in the West Seattle Junction Neighborhood Plan, which is centered on the California Avenue area. The site is also referenced in the Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000. This project will provide a</p>		

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	Amount	Recommended Range	
	Requested	Low	High
much-needed passive green space with a play area for children in a neighborhood with no other public open space or playground within a half-mile.			

<u>Seattle</u> - Sylvan Way Open Space	\$500,000	\$300,000 - \$500,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This 3.4-acre wooded open space is between Sylvan Way SW and SW Othello Street, at 27th Avenue SW, in the Delridge neighborhood. The property is adjacent to a block of wooded open space within the Longfellow Creek Green Space, which currently totals over 70 acres and is designated by city resolution. This project will provide additional urban wildlife habitat. It is listed in the Seattle Pro Parks 2000 levy. The Delridge community is designated as a Neighborhood Revitalization Area, which qualifies it for recreation and environmental amenities, along with projects like the Seattle Housing Authority's nearby redevelopment of the High Point community, which will add 850 units of affordable housing. Local community groups, including the Sunrise Heights Neighborhood Association, support this acquisition.

<u>Seattle</u> - Urban Center Parks	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000 - \$2,000,000 (2003 & 2004; \$1,000,000 - \$1,000,000 in <u>each</u> year)	
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Recommendation: The project goal is to acquire one or more small green spaces in highly urbanized Denny Triangle and University District neighborhoods in Seattle. The city has identified these areas as in need of additional public open space in its neighborhood planning process. Possible sites to meet these needs have been identified, but final decisions on specific sites are yet to be made. The Committee visited several of the candidate sites and concurs with the need for additional open space in those two neighborhoods. The Committee recommends that Seattle should come back to King County for final approval of specific sites before any Conservation Futures funds are transferred to the city for this project.

<u>Seattle</u> - West Capitol Hill Park	\$500,000	\$500,000 - \$500,000 (2003)	
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Recommendation: Located on Summit Avenue East at East John Street, and Olive Way, this proposed .22 acre open space is located in the high-density neighborhood of West Capitol Hill, which is surrounded by multi-story residential buildings. The site is currently a parking lot that will be redeveloped and converted into a neighborhood greenspace. It has high visibility from the Olive Way corridor, which has nearby restaurants and coffee shops and is an area with high pedestrian traffic and a lack of public open space. It should therefore receive a high degree of use. The Capitol Hill community has a record of being particularly active in creating and enhancing local parks, for example the Cal Anderson Park and Bobby Morris Play Field, and this site will likely generate similar levels of enthusiasm and volunteers. The West Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan identified the need for a new park in the neighborhood directly above I-5 on the west slope of Capitol Hill, which this site meets very well. The project was also identified in and funded under Seattle's 2000 Pro Parks levy.

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u>	
		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>

UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY

<u>King County</u> - Boise Creek/Dairy Farm	\$250,000	\$0 - \$200,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This 75.5 –acre project is located on 276th Avenue in unincorporated King County, bordering the southern boundary of Enumclaw. The project would both protect streamside riparian habitat on Boise Creek and also acquire development rights to prevent future development on farmland. Boise Creek is estimated to contain up to 25% of the tributary spawning activity for endangered Chinook in the White River Watershed. A wider buffer along the stream will enhance the Chinook habitat but will not hinder the agricultural production of the exiting Dairy. King County’s stream steward and Farmland Preservation Program staff have worked with the landowner to develop this proposal. The farm has an important urban separator function, as envisioned in the State Growth Management Act, between Enumclaw and the rural farmlands to the south.

<u>King County</u> - Carnation Farmland	\$200,000	\$200,000 - \$200,000 (2003)	
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Recommendation: This project consists of the acquisition of development rights on up to 120 acres of Farmland at NE 60th Street, immediately north of Carnation. The proposal will allow for continued farming activity at one of King County’s 41 remaining dairies and prevent further subdivision development of the farm. The farm contributes to the important scenic resources of the Snoqualmie Valley and contains some wildlife habitat on the western portion of the property. It also serves as an important community separator between Carnation and unincorporated King County to the north.

<u>King County</u> - Cedar Falls Tree Farm	\$ 64,500	\$ 64,500 - \$ 64,500 (2004)	
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Recommendation: Located on the east side of Cedar Falls Road SE, immediately south of the North Bend city limits, this project would purchase the development rights on 30 acres to preserve working forest activities. The owner is willing to sell the rights to King County for below fair market value. The property is part of a wildlife corridor in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, with evidence of bear-clawed trees readily apparent. The owner will continue to manage the property under a Forest plan developed with King County Forestry Program staff and it is a model for the small forest landowners in King County. The property is an eligible sending site for the King County Transferable Development Rights (TDR) Program.

<u>King County</u> - Cold Creek Natural Area	\$350,000	\$250,000 - \$250,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This project is a 39-acre forested parcel located at the southern end of King County’s 160 acre Cold Creek Natural Area. The goal of the project is to acquire a conservation easement over the property to protect the upland and riparian habitat on the site. The property contributes to preserving the water quality in Cold Creek, one of two important branches of Bear Creek, which contains significant spawning habitat for endangered Chinook and other salmonid species. The creek is a core Chinook recovery area in WRIA 8. The mature second-growth forest on the upland portion of the site and the wetlands on the lower portion provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including pileated woodpecker and great blue heron. The property owner would retain the right to develop one or two houses on the site on the southern boundary of the parcel. The Cold Creek reach was identified within the Bear Creek basin in Waterways 2000 and King County has worked over the years to permanently protect over 30 parcels in the basin, as well as obtain participation by landowners in the PBRS open space tax incentive

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u> <u>Low High</u>
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program. King County has also forged a community partnership on the creek. Community residents have adopted the properties acquired by King County

<u>King County - Dandy Lake</u>	\$425,000	\$425,000 - \$425,000 (2003)
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Recommendation: This 41-acre project is located in south King County near SE376th Street at 250th Avenue SE and includes all of Dandy Lake and a portion of Cristy Creek. The property contains mature second-growth forest that is particularly high in songbird species diversity and large mammal species including bear, cougar and bobcat. The landowner intends to sell the property but will wait to see if King County can obtain funds for purchase this year. This is a rare opportunity to purchase in King County an entire lake completely ringed with undisturbed riparian habitat. Lower Cristy Creek, below Dandy Lake, contains several salmonid species including chinook. Cutthroat trout are found in Cristy Creek all the way to Dandy Lake. This site will require controlled access that protects the fragile resources of Dandy Lake.

<u>King County - Green River Regional Trail</u>	\$200,000	\$ 0 - \$200,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: This multiple-parcel project is located along approximately four miles of the Green River, partially within Auburn and partially in unincorporated King County immediately to the north of Auburn. This is a good example of a project that contains meeting multiple open space resources and meets several objectives. The project would acquire variable-width trail rights-of-way to supplement a trail right-of-way that was obtained twenty-five years ago, but never developed. The County intends to widen the existing trail right-of-way corridor, as some of the original corridor is vulnerable to the active forces of the river. The widened corridor will also allow for restoration of higher quality riparian habitat along the river as existing dikes are upgraded and moved further back from the river. The set-back levies will allow for significantly improved natural processes for the river, which will improve salmon habitat for spawning and rearing. In 2004, King County will initiate a five-mile extension of the existing 12 mile-long green River Trail. King County has \$200,000 in matching funds that could be lost if this project is not funded.

<u>King County - Historic Lower Green River APD</u>	\$330,000	\$330,000 - \$330,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: This project consists of the acquisition of development rights on a 20-acre parcel at 78th Avenue South, between S 277th Street and the Green River. The site is in an area formerly known as "North Thomas" along the former Thomas road, which is now called 78th Street South, and was unincorporated King County's first road, extending from the old ferry landing to the upper Green River valley. This property is still actively farmed and it is within the 1,500 acre Lower Green River Agricultural Production District, of which approximately 1,020 acres are permanently preserved under the Farmlands Preservation Program. This district is an important regional open space separator between Kent and Auburn.

<u>King County - Icy Creek (Middle Green River)</u>	\$300,000	\$200,000 – \$300,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: This project is an 88-acre portion of a 192-acre parcel that is on the Franklin-Enumclaw Road at Icy Creek, adjacent to Green River Gorge State Park. The property is primarily forested and is a buffer to the headwaters of Icy Creek, which flows into the Green River. The area is part of the Green River Gorge system, which has Bear, elk, cougar, eagles and other wildlife species that exemplify the high quality of the site's habitat. The property also contains commanding views of the Green River Gorge

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range Low High</u>
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from the perimeter of the gorge, and it could therefore accommodate a trail planned along the gorge. The site has received preliminary approval for houses that would also take advantage of the view and make a trail corridor impracticable.

<u>King County</u> - Issaquah Creek/Carey/Holder Creek	\$500,000	\$300,000 - \$500,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: This project contains 3 parcels totaling 120 acres at the confluence of Issaquah, Carey and Holder Creeks, highly important salmon bearing streams in the Lake Washington/Sammamish watershed. Much of the property is currently used as a cow pasture. The proposal is to purchase a conservation and agricultural easement that increase streamside buffers from 25 to 100 feet in this ecologically important confluence area, as well as allow continued agricultural uses. The creeks support endangered Chinook and several other salmonid species. The headwaters of Carey and Holder Creeks, which meet to form Issaquah Creek, have been permanently protected in recent years and preserving this confluence, which is critical to salmon, is a high priority. These funds, when combined with the other State IAC and SRFBoard matching funds, will allow King County to fully complete this project.

<u>King County</u> - Issaquah Creek - Log Cabin Reach	\$250,000	\$220,000 - \$220,000 (2003)
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Recommendation: This project seeks to preserve up to eight parcels containing mature, late-succession forest along a 1¼-mile portion of Issaquah Creek, east of the Issaquah-Hobart Road and south of 229th Drive Southeast. The riparian habitat along this reach of the creek provides critical spawning grounds and outstanding habitat for several salmonid species. The area also supports other upland wildlife including black bear, elk and bald eagles. The Issaquah Creek corridor connects to the Squak Mountain State Park, Tiger Mountain State Forest and Conservation Area, and King County's 1700-acre Taylor Mountain Park. King County has obtained State of Washington SRFBoard matching funds that will more than match this allocation.

<u>King County</u> - Judd Creek Headwaters (Vashon Island)	\$300,000	\$300,000 - \$300,000 (2004)
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Recommendation: Located at SW 188th Street, this 83.15 acre, two-parcel project serves as the headwaters for Judd Creek. The Properties contain two water bodies, Meadow Lake and Island Center Marsh, as well as extensive second-growth woodlands and riparian habitat. The properties provide excellent songbird habitat and the creek supports coho and chum salmon, as well as cutthroat trout. Judd Creek is the largest watershed on Vashon Island. Vashon is a sole source aquifer that requires groundwater recharge for local water supply. These properties contain post-glacial till that is critical to groundwater recharge, as it allows for better infiltration, but it is uncommon on the island. The properties have enjoyed informal public access over the past decades; Vashon/Maury Island Land Trust (VMILT) has developed footpaths, with seasonal restrictions for nesting killdeer, and the area also contains a local equestrian trail system that is regularly used. The Land Trust and the Vashon Audubon Society conduct educational walking tours. The properties are adjacent to 280 forested acres owned by the State Department of Natural Resources and proposed for transfer to King County. The VMILT has secured an option on the Meadow Lake property and has secured investors to hold the Island Center Marsh property until public funding can be obtained.

Applying Jurisdiction - Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Range	
		Low	High
<u>King County</u> - Middle Newaukum Creek	\$500,000	\$ 0	\$0
		(2004)	

Recommendation: This is a multiple-parcel project located along a 3.5 mile reach of upper Newaukum Creek between Highway 169 and SE 416th Street. Within the reach, three parcels totaling 24 acres were identified in the application. The Green-Duwamish Limiting Factors Report has identified a lack of higher quality riparian habitat, including woody plants and debris, as limiting to salmon production in Newaukum Creek. This creek was one of 17 high quality basins in King County, out of a total of 72, identified in the Waterways 2000 program. Acquiring enhanced riparian buffers over several miles of Newaukum Creek is an important goal that will take many years of sustained effort. Newaukum Creek has received funding from King County in the past two years. However, the Committee feels that this year the projects on Boise Creek, Icy Creek and Dandy Lake are more critical and provide an appropriate level of funding for this area of King County. The Newaukum Creek properties will not be converted in the coming year nor are matching funds identified that would match this project. The Committee encourages King County to apply for funds for this project in future years.

<u>King County</u> - Piner Point (Maury Island)	\$300,000	\$ 0	\$0
		(2004)	

Recommendation: This six-acre proposed project contains ¼ mile of wooded Puget Sound shoreline on the southern tip of Maury Island at the end of Point Piner Road, SW. The property contains natural wooded habitat on a generally steep slope that rises from the beach. The slope is a source of natural gravel replenishment that is important for nearshore habitat aquatic species and the beach is characterized by driftwood logs and plant life that contrasts to bulkhead shoreline found on much of Puget Sound that is detrimental to aquatic species. The site has an outstanding view of Puget Sound and Mount Rainier. The property is not appropriate for public access due to severe parking limitations at the end of the nearby narrow road, as well as isolation from other publicly-owned open space that could provide such parking. The property may soon be listed for sale and development of this property would be limited to one house on the ridge above, however, there is no such development currently proposed. There is a willing seller, who wishes to sell all of the property interests at this time, and a not-for-profit land conservation organization has offered to purchase the property to preserve it, pending a commitment from King County to purchase it. Though the opportunity for purchase of this property is currently favorable, the Committee feels that the threat of beach bulkheading and the subsequent loss of shoreline habitat values needs additional study and verification. If these concerns are found to be valid then the project should be considered in a future funding round, as the nearshore habitat quality at Piner Point is high. Therefore, we encourage the conservation not-for-profit to seek a conservation buyer for the property and then seek funding for a conservation easement that limits development and protects the natural resource of the site.

<u>King County</u> - Rainbow Bend Corridor	\$500,000	\$ 0	\$0
		(2004)	

Recommendation: This project 20.4-acre project is located downstream from the Cedar Grove Bridge east of Highway 169. The site is currently a mobile home park located in the river floodplain, protected by levies that impede the natural flow of the Cedar River and therefore diminishing salmon spawning habitat. The park floods entirely in high floodwater years and septic systems have repeatedly failed and water supplies have been contaminated. The area has been proposed for public purchase and relocation of the mobile home park, going back over ten years in King County's adopted Cedar River Basin Plan. If purchased, the natural river flow on the site would be restored and the property would contain high quality salmonid habitat. The Committee strongly supports funding this project in the future and encourages King County to re-apply, but as there are no immediately available matching funds identified

<u>Applying Jurisdiction - Project</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended Range</u>	
		<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>

for the project and the Committee has recommend funding for all but three of King County's seventeen applications in this funding round, it is not as high a priority as other county applications.

<u>King County - Stoessel Creek</u>	\$500,000	\$250,000 - \$250,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This project contains 15 parcels in three clusters of high quality riparian habitat, totaling over 325 acres along Stoessel Creek, east of Duvall. The parcels are inholdings within the State of Washington's 9,000-acre Markworth Forest, but their ecologically-sensitive nature does not meet the State's criteria for purchase for timber harvest. The properties contain salmonid spawning grounds and freshwater mussels, an important indicator species for high water quality. The parcels are targeted for acquisition in the Snoqualmie/Skykomish Early Action Habitat Projects report produced in 2000 by King County Department of Natural Resources, the WRIA 7 Near Term Action Agenda, and the Tolt Fish Habitat Restoration Restoration Group. Stoessel Creek is one of the 17 high priority basins identified by scientists in the Waterways 2000 program in 1995. Project partners include the State DNR, Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities, and the Cascade Land Conservancy.

<u>King County - Striker Forest</u>	\$235,000	\$100,000 - \$150,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This project consists of the acquisition of up to 22 development rights on 110 acres of the existing 150-acre Striker Forest property, located on the north side of Kent Kangley Road, east of Landsburg Road in the Ravensdale community. The property is qualified as a sending site under King County's Transferable Development Rights (TDR) program and if acquired they would be placed in King County's TDR bank for later sale. The property is currently a working forest and it has some groundwater recharge benefits for Rock Creek, which is located a few hundred feet off the property across the road on habitat land owned by King County. Striker Forest provides a wildlife connection between County-owned land on the edge of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed and Rock Creek, crosses the county-owned land. The property is developable and the owner has sold over 20 lots on the perimeter of the original forest, most of which now have homes built on them. This site is also a priority of the Friends of Rock Creek and it was identified in the Rock Creek Vision report, adopted by King County in 2001. There are currently no qualifying matching funds for this project. The Committee recommends that King County seek to find matching funds for this project, begin phased acquisition of some units, and then apply for more funds in the future.

<u>King County - Taylor Creek Restoration</u>	\$245,000	\$200,000 - \$200,000 (2004)	
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Recommendation: This 16.3-acre project is located on Maxwell Road near Maple Valley and will allow for restoration of a portion of Taylor Creek, a tributary of the Cedar River. Similar earlier projects on the creek have been successfully completed and are an important component of improving salmon habitat in the Cedar River watershed. The project is identified in the Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8) Near-Term Action Agenda and King County's adopted Cedar River Basin Plan. When completed, the project will provide additional important salmonid spawning and rearing habitat, as well as riparian wildlife habitat. This project was included in last year's funding request but was not funded. However this year the project is ready to go and the funds recommended will help ensure its successful completion.